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AMERICAN TELEGRAPH.

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The undersigned will regard all matters communicated

him in connection with this office as sacredly confidential, and will, by himself and through such agents as it may be necessary for him to employ, use every possible precaution

preserve them inviolate.

Every letter of inquiry must contain a fee of five doll which will generally be the only remuneration required but should it not compensate for the service to be rendered the proper amount will be stated in a satisfactory letter in

reply.

53 Address, (postage prepaid,)
THOMAS C. CONNOLLY,
Washington,

Office of Correspondence, Washington, D. C. WASHINGTON CITT, January 16, 1852. Mr. Thomas C. ConnoLLY is known to us as a worthy citi sen, as a gentleman of intelligence, and as a clear, accura and ready writer; and we regard him as eminently qualifi for the able, prompt, and faithful performance of the useful duties connected with his new and original design of an OFFICE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

RICHARD WALLACH. [U. S. Marshal for the District of Columbia. WALTER LENOX, [Mayor of Washington City.] JO. GALES, ILO [Senior editor of the "National Intellig R. W. LATHAM,

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And from his long experience as proprietor of several galleries in New York city, he is confident that his work connot be excelled by any one. He will give his personal attention to each picture, and will suffer no one to go away dissatisfied. His apparatus is entirely new, and possesses all the latest improvements, having one of the most artistically arranged SKY-LIGHTS in the country.

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rtem cases promptly attended to. E. C. THOMPSON.

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jan 21—6t

LAW NOTICE.

Richard M. Young & J. McNeale Latham,

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MAYOR'S OFFICE, Washington,
December 31, 1861.

PROPOSALS, in writing, will be received at the office up to the lat day of February next, inclusive, for sinking Pumps, Hydrants, Logs for conveying water, and for sinking Wells, including all necessary materials and workmanship, in digging, laying, fixing, and completing, it he best manner, and for keeping the same in perfect repart for constant use, for the term of two years, commencing of the 1st day of April, 1852, agreeably to the following specificons:

Digging and walling wells, including materials and renoving the dirt, per foot, lineal.
Cleaning out wells, each.
Sinking old wells deeper, per foot.
Taking out old walls, and putting in same, per foot.
Cases of eight feet length, per foot.
Cases of more than eight feet length, per foot.
Covering new wells, including materials.
Paving new wells, including brick and pump stone.
Opening old wells, and covering same with old materials,
ach.

ach.

Opening old wells, and covering same with new timber.

FOR PUMPS.

Keeping the pumps in repair, viz: stopping all leaks, &c. then it can be done without taking out the pump, each.

Taking out and putting in old pumps, each.

Making new joints in old logs.

New logs put in old pumps, each.

New boxes and spouts in old pumps, each.

New pumps, per foot.

Boxes and spouts for new pumps, each.

Copper chambers for pumps.

FOR HYDRANTS.

Keeping the hydrants in result, viz: stopping all leaks.

FOR HYDRANTS.

Keeping the hydrants in repair, vix: stopping all leaks, te., all new valves and spouts, repairing the old ones, and spairing the old irons belonging to them, when it can be tone without taking the hydrant out, each.

Taking out hydrants and putting in same, each.
New hydrants, per foot.
Spouts for hydrants, each.
Painting pumps and hydrants, each.
Hendles, axles, plates, bands and repairs, per lb.
Spout and lower box-drons for pumps, each.
New joints to old spears.
New spout and valve irons for hydrants.

WALTER LENOX, Mayor.

43 The Mayor reserves the privilege of ividing the city into two districts, and of giving the lowest ompetent bidder the choice of districts, and to the next

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GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICES. THE Subscriber, intending to remove from his present place of business to a more commodious store, offers for the upwards of \$3,000 worth of goods, at greatly reduced

Dealer in Fruits, Wines, Liquors, Cigars, Comestible Pa. avenue, three doors east of 15th street, jan 14—tr [Wash. News.] IMPORTANT TO THE DEAF.

DOCTOR HARTLY, AURIST, from the Ear Infirmary, 99 Areh street, Philadelphia, begs to announce his return to this city for a few days. The number and importance of the cases under his care, on his recent visit, and the ratifying amount of success which attended his treatment, ave induced him to expedite his return. His stay here till depend much upon circumstances; and it will be adiable for those who wish to consult him to make an early all. Residence over Myers's Dry-goods atore, between 9th nel 10th streets, Pennsylvania avenue. Consultation and xamination fee, \$1.

OFFICE OF CORRESPONDENCE,

A letter on any business, addressed to this office, and enclosing a fee of fire dollars, will procure a satisfactory reply REFERENCES.—R. Wallach, U. S. Marshall, W. Lenox Mayor; Jo. Gales, of the "Intelligencer;" R. W. Latham Banker. Address T. C. CONNOLLY.

Office of Correspondence, Washington, D. C.

EDITORS who place the above notice, with this note, mong the business cards in their columns, may at all times ammand the services of this office.

Warranted Bay Water!
WARRANTED to me to be the best article in the New
York market. Price lose. (Wash. News.) Seventh str

FANCY PAPER HEADQUARTERS! (YOLD PAPER, plain and embossed; Silver, Copper, White Metal, Chinese, Steel Blue, Carmine, and Ulta-marine; embossed, glassed, figured and finest German, Bancy, of all colors and Gold borders, of all sizes; English and American Tissue, Oil, Tracing, Perforated, and Drawing Pa-per. For sale by Jan 19—so Seventh street.

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45 These articles are corrected to give satisfaction.
For sale by

Railroad Convention.

We would call the attention of the public generally, and especially of all persons immediately interested in Railroads, to the Circular to the Presidents of Railroad Companies from the committee of the meeting held in this city on the 3d inst. We understand that the meeting adjourned until the first Tuesday in March, that the great convention to be held at New Orleans on the first Monday in January may act upon the proposed modification of the laws regulating mail contracts. It is hoped that the adjourned meeting will be fully attended, and that Railroad Companies who cannot conveniently send delegates will authorize their members of Congress or some one else to represent them.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 10, 1851. SIE: By the enclosed proceedings of a meeting held in this city on the 3d instant, it was made the duty of the undersigned as a committee to correspond with the several railroad companies in the United States, and to report to an adjourned meeting, to be held in this city on the

[Circular.]

first Tuesday in March next, to consider a proposition to petition Congress for a change in the law regulating mail contracts, so as to enable the Post Office Department to deliver to railroad companies United States five per cent. coupon bonds, upon permanent contracts for carrying the mail, to an amount the interest upon which, at five per cent., would be equal to the payments to be made under existing laws; and they therefore respectfully call the attention of your company to the subject, and invite your co-operation. They greatly prefer that you should send delegates to the adjourned meeting; for the opinions expressed by a convention of practical men, representing so much wealth, enterprise, and intelligence, will command, as they will deserve, the confidence and respect of Congress, and thus promote the adoption of such details as may be agreed upon in convention; but if it should not be convenient to send delegates, we would ask your company to submit, through us, your wishes and opinions

connected therewith. It is well known that many persons are opposed to internal improvements by the general government-some denying the power of Congress to make appropriations for that object; others fearing that the exercise of such power would lead to combinations resulting in partial and unjust legislation. It will be seen that the proposition under consideration is free from these objections. It asks no appropriation of money in aid of the construction of railroads. The contracts will be restricted to the service which the several railroad companies are in condition to execute when

the payments are made.

upon the main proposition, and upon the details

It is true that the proposed modification of the laws regulating mail contracts will give similar payments pro rata, as new roads are made and as old ones are extended, and will so far increase the credit and resources of railroad companies. The same effect, although to a less extent, results from existing laws, and surely it cannot be urged as a valid objection to the proposed change that it will aid in the extension of the railroad system. We claim as a merit, that the proposed modification will aid in extending the system by giving greater value to railroad investments. Under existing laws contracts are made for four years, and the payments are continued, if not increased ad infinitum. Under the proposed modification the contracts will be made, giving the United States the perpetual use of railroads; and the rate of compensation is so reduced that, at the end of thirty-three years, the payments will cease, and the department will forever thereafter have the use of such railroad free of all charge.

It is objected that old routes may be superseded by new ones, and the present service so diminished as to render it inexpedient to make permanent contracts at the rates proposed. It has also been objected that railroads now in use may be discontinued, and that such railroad companies cannot protect the department from loss. We answer these objections by assuming that the contracts will be made by a board appointed for that purpose, and that no contracts will be given unless that board be fully satisfied that mail service adequate to the payments will be amply se cured to the United States.

We desire to obtain the views of your company upon these and all other matters of detail, and respectfully ask of you to furnish us such statistics as will enable us to submit to the convention and to Congress a statement showing the comparative increase or diminution, as the case may be, of the mail service performed by your company—the past, and probable future increase of the weight of mails carried over the route of your road. And in this connexion we wish to learn what, in your opinion, will be the probable increased weight of the mails, if newspapers and periodicals are sent free of postage.

We wish you also to state what is the presen current price of your shares, what rate of divi dend does your company now pay, and what dividend could you pay under a contract such as we

propose. The committee venture to invite the co-opera tion of the railroad convention to be held in New Orleans on the first Monday of January, and that the newspapers in the South and West will urge upon all those who are interested in railroads or in the extension of the system a favorable con sideration of the measure proposed, and the necessity of prompt and efficient co-operation. In

DUFF GREEN, Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting held in Washington City on the 3d December, 1851.

At a meeting of gentlemen, assembled, at the request of Gen. Buff Green, to consider a project for modifying the existing laws regulating the letting of mails to radiroad corporations—

Gen. Morton, of Florida, was chosen president, and Albert Smith, of Maine, secretary.

The meeting was addressed by Gen. Green in explanation of his proposition; after which, a desultory conversation was held by all the gentlemen present, and the following resolution was alopted:

"Resulved, That a committee of five be appointed, with anthority to correspond with the several radiroad companies in the United States upon the subject of an application to Congress for a change in the mode of compensation for transporting the mails on railroads, and to digest a pisn, to be submitted to a meeting to be hereafter convened by the add committee."

be stumittee to a meeting to a said committee."

Gen. Duff Green, Mr. Blunt, of Florida, Albert Smith, of Maine, Robert H. Gallaber and Col. Fontaine, of Virginia, were chosen said committee.

Voted, that the meeting be adjourned.

ALBERT SMITH, Secretary.

AMERICAN TELEGRAPII.

DEAD LETTERS.

BY JANE REVENAUGH. Within a few weeks, four hundred thouse and doud ters have been received at Washington, fro in Cali-nia.—New York TRIBUNE.

Four hundred thousand tokens, Sent to the loved in vain, Come back, with scals unbroken, O'er land and wave again.

From many a happy household, Far up and down the land, They sought, with prayers and blessings, To bring back holy memories

The avarice and the treachery, That make a war of life. O! human love, how faithfully Thy words are written here, Folding with yearning tenderness

Amid the toil and strife,

The absent-yet how dear. A mother's message to her son, Child of her hopes and fears; How many prayers went forth with him-

Alas! how many tears! He might have stayed her faltering steps Down to death's hither shore; He died upon the billowy sea-His mother went before.

Just from the verge of heaven, That might have lured him thitherward, To stranger eyes are given. A strong man, worn and sunburnt,

From the gold mines to the shore

Her dying words, sent forth to him

Went fifty leagues, with hopeful step, To hear from home once more 'No letter here"-how bitterly The words fell on his ear; Then for a moment o'er him came

An agonizing fear. His wife-whose very memory Had made his eyes grow dim With tears of manly tenderness-Had she forgotten him?

With heavy heart and doubtful step The miner turned away: He never knew how sweet the words That came for him next day:

Words written from a faithful heart-Written, alas! in vain; From the far hills, the toil-worn man Had never come again. Such are the proofs of yearning love,

The words of kindly cheer-Dear tokens of remembrance-Fond friends have written here. How many eyes had brightened With the light of hope once more;

How many hearts been lightened

On that gold-sanded shore-That weary grew with waiting, And faltered by the way-Ye might have cheered, ye might have saved : Why are ye here to-day?

Why kept ye not your mission From loving hearts and true To absent ones, still unforgot, Who watched and wept for you?

Some perished in the wilderness

Some, on the trackless sand;

And by her golden streams.

And some in fated ships went That never came to land. And many gained the goodly shere Land of their wildest dreams, And reaped rich harvests on her hills,

But Death lurked in the dark ravines, And by the river side, And waited where the tide-washed sands Uncounted treasures hide-

And gathered in his harvest there Sickness and Want and Cold Crushed out the life of hardy men-They died amid their gold.

The land they sought gave them alone A burial in her earth: To such, a thousand mines of gems Had been of little worth.

Better than all had been to them The pearl without a price. To cheer in life, to ope in death The gate of Paradise. [Not. Era

Miss Dix.-The Senate of Alabama have done one good thing, and done it well, this ses-sion, and our State looks up. Miss Dix's bill for a State hospital for the insame, which re mained among a good deal of unfinished bu-siness the last session, in consequence of the loss of public property by the total destruction by fire of our State Capitol, has passed the Senate by an overwhelming majority. The House will do no less, as far as we can see. The people are more than satisfied. The chairman of the committee made two amendments last session, viz: appointing the Judges of the Supreme Court instead of commissioners to locate the site and plantation, and reducing the appropriation from \$100,000 to \$50,000 These amendments are stricken out, and the first reading of the bill is restored. With one hundred thousand we shall have a first-rate nospital, and soon it will cease to be necessary to send our patients thousands of miles to have them cured of this dreadful malady. Our sister on our north border, Tennessee, is going ahead, and is just opening her new hospital. We see that the commissioners and Legislature do full justice to Miss Dix there. Her name, cut in solid granite on the walls, shows that they don't forget her or her good works. The fact is, that she asks nothing and wishes nothing for herself, and the more deserves all things.

A Good Hir.-The Boston Post says: "The book-case which the Queen of England is about to present to the Emperor of Austria will cost \$50,000. If she would give him the New Testament, worth one dollar, and then give him \$49,999 to read it, there might be some prospect of improvement in the young rascal.

The Marquis of Londonderry has purchased fifty or sixty Shetland ponies, to be employed in coal-mines, as substitutes for children, who have hitherto moved the coal-trucks along the confined corridors under ground.

Autographs. There is a branch of commerce, extensively

practiced in France and England, which seems quite unknown upon this side of the water, although we are accused of making traffic of everything. We allude to the sale of man-uscript notes, documents, and even mere signatures, of eminent persons. It constitutes, there, a regular and important department of trade In London and Paris, public sales by auction of collections, are frequent; and while many booksellers deal in the purchase and selling of character of man might be found in the conformation of his cranium, the Quarterly Review replied, smartly enough, so it may in the nail of the little finger, if one only has the skill to develope it. Von Goethe was one of those who supposed that people's nature betrays itself in their chirography. Those who have been taught by "The Doctor," that physiognomy is not derived from phiz, will not be surprised to learn that the author of "Faust" called himself a physiognomist in handwriting—a himself a physiognomist in handwriting—a new Lavater in pot-hooks and hangers. He had devised a theory upon the subject, which might be useful at the criminal dock when the character of some culprit was under inquisition. We are not aware that the practice of collecting has ever resulted in anything really useful, on a considerable scale, to knowledge scarce now, only because they were always worthless." Yet occasionally, in their muse-ums, an interesting historical circumstance is illustrated. At Rouen is preserved a charter signed with a cross by William the Conqueror, which shows that a man may be able to make which shows that a man may be able to make his mark in the world, who does not know how to write his name. A friend of ours is in possession of two or three notes of Napoleon which indicate that a person may master and manage all the spells of victory and empire, and yet have a very imperfect notion of the spelling of common words. Mr. Rogers is in possession of the receipt given to Milton by Lonson, for some twenty rounds, the gent Jonson, for some twenty pounds, the copy-money for "Paradise Lost;" and he delights to acquaint his friends that he gave more for the signature than Johnson gave for the whole poem, which shows that Milton is as rich in fame as Rogers is famous in riches. The author of "Italy" is a delightful poet, but his autograph would be more valuable at the bottom of a thousand pound cheek than anywhere else. It seems that the courts of law will not take notice, judicially, that autographs of noble persons have a marketable value. In a late case in the Court of Exchequer, a note given by Lord Beshorough, upon some agree-ment, was void for want of a proper stamp, and the question arose, whether there was any consideration for the contract of the other party. "Perhaps," said Chief Baron Pollock, gravely, "it may have some value as an autograph. Whereupon, from the novelty of the point, adjornator.—Home Journal.

Colored Nobility.

As the Kafir war is now attracting considerable attention, we transcribe from Bentley's Miscellany an amusing description of a Kafir

Kafir. Arms, legs, and feet, are left bare, and is the head. Macomo, however, is very fond of turning out in European costume; and as he selects his wardrobe in a very diffusing manner, the effect he produces is more remarkable than elegant. Judge of my surprise at seeing very much the worse for wear; a pair of old dragoon trousers, with a tarnished gold stripe down the legs; yellow velt-schoens; a shocking bad straw hat, no shirt, no waistcoat, and no stockings! He was mounted on a little, rough ungroomed pony, with a cheap saddle and an old worn-out bridle. In place of a riding-whip, he carried in his hand a knot-kneerie of formidable dimensions, and in his mouth was stuck a small, blackened, clay pipe. In addition to this, he was by no means sober, though not drunk "for Macomo," I was informed. My interview with the worthy chief was not a with him, of no importance, but rather amusing, from the manner in which it ended-namely by the great chief asking me to lend him six-Of course I complied, and saw him two hours later in a state of helpless intoxication my sixpence had done it. You can get drunk on the most economical terms at the Cape."

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE ON CLERGYMEN.-A ease of some interest to clergymen and physicians was tried before the Court of Common Pleas at Cambridge, on Monday, Judge Mellen presiding. The widow of a physician sued an in Middlesex county, for the professional ser- mud, and in an hour they will be out and vices of her husband to the amount of about bright. They are not ever yawning away exphysician had at various times declared that had come into it with only half their soul; you his services were gratuitous, and testimony was cannot keep them down-you cannot destroy produced to the effect. The books of the phythat charges of the visits were made; but in everal cases the sum was not carried out, as was the case with other charges. The jury brought in a verdict for the defendant. Boston Traveller

GREAT FEATS .- Mr. Levi Parks, of Winchendon, Mass., raised upon his farm last year an English turnip, weighing, with the top, forty-seven pounds, and without the top, thirty-energy. Without life, what are you good for, one pounds! The same man caught in the if it is passed idly away? We should ever Shadagee Woods, about six miles from Lake Champlain, in the State of New York, the past season, forty-three hundred dozen pigeons in ten weeks, and sent them to Boston market Will anybody beat this?

SIGNIFICANT .- The municipal council of the ommune de Mions, in the arrondissement of Vienna, are said to have congratulated Louis Napoleon on his coup d'état of December, directed "To his Majesty, the Lord President of the French

STATES OF WASHINGTON IN GENOA. - A Genor Se gentleman has erected in his grounds, on a beautiful knoll overlooking the harbor of the city, magnificent marble statue of Washington.

The Gold Mines in Sydney.

The following is an extract of a letter received by a gentleman, from his brother in Australia

SYDNEY, August 10, 1851. I had a great mind to ship in an American vessel bound to London and New York; but I have changed my mind, owing to the discovery of our gold mines at Bathurst, and which far surpass the California mines; for in this Colony the largest lump of gold has been found that ever was known—weighing 106 pounds, (one kundred and six pounds.!)—which has been sold for the sum of £4,160 10s. The facts of the discovery of the gold mines are these. of collections, are frequent.

booksellers deal in the purchase and selling of autographs, as collateral to their principal employment, there are several houses which make it their exclusive business. The records of autograph-hunting include some illustrious names; among them no less a reputation than Wolfgang Goethe. When the phrenological people asserted that the intellectual and moral character of man might be found in the construction of his cranium, the Quarterly Research with the appearance of that country and was so much struck with the appearance of that country and the Bathurst district, that he determined at once to return. On his arrival in Sydney he immediately started for Bathurst, and discovered the precious metal at a place called Summerhill Creek. On his return to Sydney with the news, several hundred were missing in three or four days; and now there are thousands gone, and going: in fact, every one that I am acquainted with is going. The news of the hundred-weight of gold has created a much greater excitement than ever. Several other diggings have since been found at the Turon River, forty-six miles to the southwest of Bathurst; the Summerhill is to the southwest of Bathurst. The Turon diggings are the most profitable—all doing well. Two of my acquaintances, in whom I could believe, sent word the only virtuous, and which deems that in signatures, as in steaks, rareness is the first requisite; which doats upon things which are scarce now, only because the signatures are now, only because the signatures. reported that a place which I think you know (Shoalhaven) is richer still. Also, the Tweed and Richmond rivers are rich in gold. The truth is that there will be gold found all over the country. Unfortunately for the discoverer of the hundred weight, he broke it when he was getting it out of the ground, or it would have been invaluable. The Government has now seized it, and demand a royalty, because the finder did not have a digging license. The gold having passed through three buyers, Government has returned it, on the promise of the royalty being paid, which is, I think, ten per

> KEEP OUT OF DEBT .- If there is any gallmg slavery, it is being in debt. A man may be honest and true; but when he gets "head over heels" in debt, then woe to him. Woe to you, man, if you get into debt so deep, there is no seeing through. You will be derided to your face and behind your back. The rascals will try every means in their power to give you a bad reputation; and if they succeed in their machinations, make up your mind to receive a goodly number of kicks. Such is the custom; they say " you have no business to run into debt; so you haven't, if you could have lived and done otherwise.

Woe to thee, oh man in debt! Patched breeches, or a crumpled hat, are nothing; or a care-worn brow, nor premature gray nairs; but the suspicions of the world, the cold distrust, the passing by on the other side, accumulating duns and threats, sleepless nights and dark forebodings, are something. These shall be your thorns. But you could endure all this fight all this, if the rascals would patronize yougive you encouragement to enable you to get out of the scrape.

Keep out of debt. Don't run into that fire.

Don't run into debt. Go ragged—dig clams—live on ground-nuts, first. Pay down, if in your "The proper dress of a Kafir chief is a kaross power—barter in lard, cats skins, hens' eggs, of leopard skin, which can be worn by no other anything honorable; but don't run into debt. Eastern Mail

MYSTERY OF THE AMERICAN LAKES .- Lake Erie, says the Dublin Magazine, is only sixty or seventy feet deep, but the bottom of Lake Ontario, which is four hundred and fifty-two the great leader of ten thousand warriors thus feet deep, is two hundred and thirty feet below habited. He wore a blue dress coat with brass the level of the ocean, or as low as most parts buttons, considerably too large for him, and of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; and the bottom of Lakes Michigan and Superior, although their surface is so much higher, are all, from their vast depth, on a level with Lake Ontario. Now, as the discharge through the river Detroit, after allowing for the full probable portion carried off by evaporation, does not appear by any means equal to the quantity of water the three upper great lakes receive, it has been conjectured that a subterranean river may run from Lake Superior to Lake Huron, and from Lake Huron to Lake Ontario. This conjecture is by no means improbable, and will account for the singular fact that salmon and long one. I was introduced to him by a man herring are caught in all the lakes communithat knew him, and I had a little conversation cating with St. Lawrence, but in no others. As cating with St. Lawrence, but in no others. As the Falls of Niagara must have always existed, it would puzzle the naturalist to say how these fish got in the upper lakes without some such subterraneau river; moreover, any periodical obstruction of the river would furnish a not improbable solution of the mysterious flux and reflux of the lakes .- Detroit Daily Advertiser

ENERGY-WHAT IT DOES-LAZY MEN ARE ALWAYS BELOW PAR.-We love your upright, energetic men. Pull them this way, and then that way, and the other, and they only bend, but never break. Trip them down, and in a Episcopal clergyman, formerly settled in a town trice they are on their feet. Bury them in the them. But for these, the world would soon ician were put in from which it was shown degenerate. They are the salt of the earth. Who but they start any noble project ? build our cities and rear our manufactories They whiten the ocean with their sails, and they blacken the heavens with the smoke of their steam-vessels and furnace fires. They draw their treasures from the mine. plough the earth. Blessings on them! Look to them, young men, and take courage; imitate their example, catch the spirit of their measure thus life's employment.

> IMMIGRATION INTO TEXAS .- Day after day it comes in unceasingly. Whenever we step to the doors or south windows of our office, looking out upon the square, we see trains of wagons, halted until supplies are purchased and inquiries made about the country and the roads. Upon the southern lines of travel through the State, as we hear, there is the same ceaseless stream, ever moving-a sort of Mississippi of human life, pouring its current by various debouches into our State. Assuredy, the increase of our population this year

must be very great. Northern (Texas) Standard